

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A tandem frictional engagement device comprising:

a first frictional engagement unit that couples a first coupling member to a first coupled member through a procedure wherein a friction disc that is relatively non-rotatably spline-fitted to the first coupling member is pressed by a first piston in a first direction and wherein the friction disc and another friction disc on the side of the first coupled member are clamped between the first piston and a first stopper member; and

a second frictional engagement unit that couples a second coupling member to a second coupled member through a procedure wherein a friction disc that is relatively non-rotatably spline-fitted to the second coupling member is pressed by a second piston in a direction opposite to the first direction and wherein the friction disc and another friction disc on the side of the second coupled member are clamped between the second piston and a second stopper member,

wherein

the first coupling member and the second coupling member are constructed separately from each other,

a splined leading end of a first fitting portion of the first coupling member to which the friction disc is spline-fitted is so disposed as to substantially abut on a second fitting portion of the second coupling member to which the friction disc is spline-fitted, and

the leading end of the first coupling member is used as the second stopper member.

Claim 2 (Original): The tandem frictional engagement device according to claim 1, wherein

the leading end of the first fitting portion of the first coupling member substantially abuts on the second fitting portion of the second coupling member in an axial direction of the first and second coupling members.

Claim 3 (Original): The tandem frictional engagement device according to claim 2, wherein

the leading end of the first fitting portion of the first coupling member prevents the friction disc spline-fitted to the second fitting portion of the second coupling member from being displaced in the axial direction.

Claim 4 (Original): The tandem frictional engagement device according to claim 3, wherein

a spacer is interposed between the friction disc spline-fitted to the second fitting portion and the leading end of the first fitting portion.

Claim 5 (Original): The tandem frictional engagement device according to claim 1, wherein

the first stopper member is a snap ring.

Claim 6 (Cancelled).

Claim 7 (Original): The tandem frictional engagement device according to claim 1, wherein

the leading end of the first fitting portion of the first coupling member is higher in axial rigidity than the first stopper member.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The tandem frictional engagement device according to claim 1, wherein

the second coupling member is a non-rotatable case, and

the first coupling member is integrally secured, at a location other than ~~except at~~ the first fitting portion to the case while the leading end of the first fitting portion substantially abuts on the second fitting portion.

Claim 9 (Original): The tandem frictional engagement device according to claim 1, wherein

an annular space is formed on an outer periphery side of the first fitting portion and between the first fitting portion and the case, and

the first fitting portion is provided with a drain port that causes lubricating oil for the friction disc spline-fitted on an inner periphery side to flow out to the annular space by means of a centrifugal force.

Claim 10 (Original): An automatic transmission that is mounted with the tandem frictional engagement device according to claim 1.